



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

Washington Crop Weather

Released: August 11, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: August 10, 2003
CWP WA-CW3203

Palouse Rain Showers Slow Harvest Activity Ginger Gold and Gala Apple Harvest Began in the Yakima Valley

Field Crops

Rain showers in the Palouse slowed harvest activity, while not causing any grain quality damage. Winter and spring dryland cereal harvest progressed as well as peas and lentils. The second cutting of alfalfa wrapped up while the third cutting was well underway. In Grant County, dry beans and seed beans were being swathed. Potato harvest continued. Skagit County reported some signs of early blight, but no signs of late blight in potato fields.

Livestock

Dairy producers in Grays Harbor County continued irrigating and fertilizing pastures by pumping manure lagoons. Light rains helped some pastures which were still growing, but supplemental feeding continued to be reported. Range and pasture conditions were 7% very poor, 19% poor, 52% fair, and 22% good. Clam seeding continued in Pacific County, while oyster transplanting finished.

Fruits and Vegetables

Blueberry harvest continued with a few reports of mummyberry in Snohomish and Northern King Counties, resulting in lower yields than normal. Pumpkins were also reported as small and not coloring well for the fall market due to the hot, dry conditions over the past few weeks. Raspberry harvest was winding down while harvest on cole crops, vegetable seeds, apricots, peaches, carrots, sweet corn, watermelons, and tomatoes continued. In the Yakima Valley, harvest of Ginger Gold and Gala apples began.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.3
Last Week	6.8

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	44	27	29	0
Subsoil	16	32	52	0
Irrigation Water	4	9	87	0
Hay & Roughage	3	6	82	9

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	44	21	28	27
Winter Wheat Harvested	68	45	57	55
Barley Harvested	40	18	21	25
Potatoes Harvested	27	25	24	17
Corn Silage Harvested	4	2	3	1
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	2	0	0	1
Dry Peas Harvested	52	32	19	29
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	100	99	99	98
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	48	26	29	38

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	3	7	29	50	11
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	16	76	8
Spring Wheat Dryland	8	26	45	20	1
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	15	85	0
Barley Dryland	7	23	46	23	1
Barley Irrigated	0	0	13	87	0
Potatoes	0	0	11	74	15
Corn	0	0	9	91	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	5	65	30

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Ag producers welcomed a good soaking rain on Friday which quickly ended an almost three month long drought. Although the rain did little to replenish soil moisture beyond the surface, it did help rejuvenate many drought stricken plants. Ag producers were also relieved to have the extreme fire danger, which exists across the rural landscape, at least temporarily alleviated. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Grand fir and top working Noble fir. Sweet corn growers continued an intense irrigation schedule to compensate for the lack of available soil moisture. U-Pick blueberry farms reported good yields and excellent flavor quality due to the warm, sunny weather. Dairy producers continued irrigating and fertilizing pastures by pumping manure lagoons.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: Light showers during the past week did little to relieve the drought.

Island: The weather was hot and dry. Producers have only harvested hay so far.

Kitsap: Fruit and vegetable production was on schedule. Farmers reported normal to above average yields of small fruit and vegetables.

Pacific: Much needed rainfall helped to increase soil moisture after weeks of warm, dry conditions. Christmas tree growers continued shearing operations. Clam seeding continued with growers preparing beds and seed bags for planting. Oyster transplanting was completed, with continued harvest of cooler water beds for processing, and maintenance of oyster dredges.

Pierce/South King: The temperature cooled off and brought relief to the producers in the South Puget Sound. There were no unusual situations to report. There were no reports of crop damage due to the weather.

Skagit: After a 58 day period with no precipitation, on August 5, 6, and 9 we received .05", .27", and .18" of rain respectively,

just enough to settle the dust. Harvest continued on wheat, blueberries, cole crops, potatoes, and vegetable seed crops. There were no signs of late blight in potato fields or tomato gardens. There were some signs of early blight.

Snohomish/North King: Welcome rainfall fell on and off throughout the week with afternoon temperatures in the 70's and 80's. Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning lightning was blamed for several fires, including an historic barn in North King County, killing two horses. Blueberry harvest continued, with reports of mummyberry disease and much lower yields than normal. Cucumbers and zucchini were doing very well. The hot, dry conditions over the past few weeks caused the pumpkin crops to be small and not coloring for the fall market.

Thurston: Ag producers were jubilant over a "million dollar" rainfall which soaked the rural landscape Thursday morning and provided a welcome relief to drought-stricken crops. The rain broke a nearly 75 day dry period when almost no precipitation had occurred. Although heavy accumulations of rain will be required to replenish depleted soil moisture, the rain that fell was a tremendous help in providing some moisture to water starved plants and also at least temporarily alleviate the danger of wildfires. Blueberry harvest was nearly 75 percent complete with growers reporting a 20 percent decrease in yields over last year, due primarily to an early freeze in the spring. Christmas tree growers began shearing Douglas fir and continued top working Noble fir. Turfgrass growers continued preparing previously harvested fields for planting. Livestock producers continued to feed hay as pasture forages had completely dried up. Organic vegetable growers reported excellent sales of cucumbers for pickling.

Whatcom: Raspberry harvest was winding down. Blueberry harvest continued. Potato vine killing continued. Some rain was received during the week, which should help moisture levels.

Central

Benton: Some rain was received. There were no reports of damaged crops.

Douglas/Chelan: Winter wheat harvest continued. Yields were average. A very small amount of precipitation was received in spots throughout the counties. Apricot and peach harvest continued. The pear crop was expected to be above average this year. The apple crop should be smaller than normal. Temperatures have slightly cooled off.

Franklin: Temperatures were warm. Potatoes, carrots, and sweet corn harvests continued. The third cutting of alfalfa was underway. Watermelons and tomatoes were being picked.

Grant: Vegetable seed and sweet corn harvests continued. Dry beans and seed beans were being swathed. Scattered rain delayed some field activities and damaged some downed hay.

Kittitas: Two light rains were helpful on some dryland pastures still growing. Cooler nights brought significant dew, but daytime continued to be hot and dry. Irrigation supplies were cut to 87 percent.

Klickitat: There were three significant periods of rainfall during the week, which should help dryland hayfields and any pasture and range forage that have not gone dormant.

Ferry: There were scattered thunderstorms in the county, and a little rain on the east half. There were also several lightning strike fires that had to be extinguished on ranges in the north and south end of the county. The nights were cooler, which slowed down the continuing drying out.

Okanogan/Ferry: Winter wheat harvest was well underway. The second cutting of alfalfa was complete. There was some relief from the extremely hot weather mid-week.

Yakima: Thunderstorms caused generally minor localized crop losses in some areas. Ginger Gold and Gala apple harvest began.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures ranged from 1 degree below normal to 3 degrees above normal, with .42" of precipitation. Several producers reported damage to corn crops due to high winds.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Rain showers halted harvest briefly. Temperatures were closer to normal this week, a welcome break from the extremely hot temperatures of July.

Adams: Winter and spring dryland cereal grain harvest was nearly complete.

Lincoln: Winter and spring harvest was in full swing.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Scattered thunderstorms slowed harvest in areas of the county. Some areas were down temporarily and others were down for two days. Winter wheat harvest was progressing as well as peas and lentils. Some spring wheat and spring barley were being harvested but most were still not mature. Pasture and grazing was lacking in most areas with reports of supplemental feeding taking place.

Stevens: A few rain showers were received early in the week, but conditions remained very dry. Grain harvest continued throughout the county.

Walla Walla/Columbia: Some scattered showers were received. On Tuesday, August 5, a severe dust storm with heavy winds and lightning occurred which halted harvest for the day. Walla Walla producers nearly completed harvest. Columbia County was about 75 percent complete. Spring yields were disappointing overall. Winter wheat yields were down as well. Rangeland was in poor condition, although there were some rain events in the past week. Overall, the accumulation was minimal.

Whitman: Precipitation, moving up from the south, brought rain showers to the Palouse, slowing harvest activity. The rain was not enough to cause any quality damage, just enough to give crews and machines some time off. Totals ranged from just below .10" up to .80". By Thursday, combines were once again cutting. Harvest was winding down in the western part of the county, but just beginning in the eastern part of the county. Winter wheat yields were being reported at just below normal. Spring crops were expected to be below normal.

National weather website: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa>

E-mail: nass-wa@nass.usda.gov

Free e-mail subscriptions are available via automated mailing list for National and State reports. You can subscribe to individual reports and they will be sent directly to your e-mail address soon after the official release time.

Subscribe at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm>

Weekly Weather Statistics

August 11, 2003

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	50	77	63	-2	89	-2	19	-9	0.20	-0.08	2	26.25	-8.92	75	147
Everett	53	75	64	-1	98	0	28	-3	0.26	-0.02	3	24.72	-10.75	70	145
Hoquiam	52	70	61	-2	75	-2	8	-6	0.04	-0.24	2	60.49	-6.30	91	161
Kelso	52	82	67	3	121	16	51	14	0.05	-0.23	1	23.70	-21.74	52	105
Olympia	44	83	63	-2	93	-5	24	-9	0.25	0.03	4	37.12	-12.49	75	151
Sea-Tac	53	77	65	-1	109	-3	39	-4	0.29	0.08	3	31.56	-4.78	87	143
Shelton	46	83	63	-3	95	-17	29	-13	0.11	-0.10	3	54.51	-9.43	85	147
Tacoma	48	81	64	-2	101	-4	31	-10	0.34	0.10	4	26.82	-12.47	68	132
Vancouver	54	85	69	4	134	27	64	22	0.04	-0.17	2	34.26	-6.12	85	138
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	48	89	70	2	141	8	71	8	0.00	-0.07	0	7.90	-0.74	91	80
Omak	52	96	74	6	168	41	98	38	0.00	-0.21	0	11.82	-2.46	83	61
Stampede Pass	46	76	60	4	68	19	7	-4	0.01	-0.34	1	58.77	-20.75	74	148
Wenatchee	58	92	75	2	178	10	108	10	0.03	-0.04	1	8.90	0.92	112	75
Yakima AP	52	91	71	2	151	9	81	9	0.28	0.21	1	8.26	0.59	108	59
NORTHEAST															
Colville	52	100	73	6	165	45	95	40	0.27	0.06	2	17.65	-2.77	86	76
Deer Park	47	93	69	-2	134	-6	64	-6	0.09	-0.05	2	20.34	2.40	113	99
Spokane AP	55	92	72	3	156	16	86	16	0.12	-0.02	2	15.28	-0.69	96	103
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	55	92	73	-4	160	-19	90	-19	0.21	0.16	3	7.82	0.78	111	58
Moses Lake	53	94	72	-4	158	-21	88	-21	0.14	0.09	1	8.19	1.15	116	74
Quincy	54	90	73	2	161	10	91	9	0.15	0.08	3	6.29	-1.26	83	55
Ritzville	54	94	71	1	144	4	74	4	0.08	0.01	2	11.26	0.28	103	85
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	55	96	75	-5	178	-24	108	-25	0.36	0.29	1	8.40	2.14	134	69
Pasco	57	96	77	2	190	14	120	15	0.02	-0.05	1	7.12	-0.09	99	73
Pullman	50	91	69	3	135	16	65	16	0.00	-0.21	0	10.32	-10.14	50	89
Whitman Miss.	52	99	73	2	161	11	91	10	0.07	-0.07	2	14.40	1.09	108	117
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	52	93	70	-1	142	-5	72	-5	0.10	-0.18	2	18.33	-6.68	73	102
Lewiston ID	59	98	76	2	184	9	114	9	0.23	0.09	3	12.90	1.05	109	113

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Copyright 2002: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.